

Information on the Eight Views Motif

The Cincinnati Art Museum's Kutani "Plate" 1977.189 in Gallery 138 depicts Eight Views of Lake Biwa. In Asia, the number eight when applied to a beautiful place, means that the scene is beautiful in so many ways that the beauty is almost beyond the skill of the artist's brush. However, the artist will select eight views to represent its most beautiful aspects.

The Eight Views theme is based on eight ancient Chinese poems, dealing with respectively:

Evening snow

The full moon in autumn twilight

Evening Rain

Temple bells ringing at the close of day

Boats returning to harbor

Geese flying home

Sunset

Clearing skies at evening after a storm

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